IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 17 and 21 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (previously presented) A computer program product having a computer readable medium having computer program executable code recorded thereon for determining numerical scores suitable for use in ranking software product requirements, the computer program product comprising the programming instructions for:

evaluating supplier metrics for customer interest categories to provide numerical values for a software product requirement;

computing partial scores for the customer interest categories by weighting and summing the numerical values; and

determining an overall score for the software product requirement from the partial scores.

Claim 10 (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the customer interest categories are selected from the set consisting of capability, usability, performance, reliability, interoperability, maintainability, documentation, and serviceability.

Claim 11 (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the supplier metrics are selected from the set consisting of market penetration, priority as determined by a customer, revenue potential, and state of technology advancement.

Claim 12 (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the step of determining includes a step of averaging non-zero partial scores.

Claim 13 (previously presented) A computer program product having a computer readable medium having computer program executable code recorded thereon for determining numerical scores suitable for use in ranking software product requirements, the computer program product comprising the programming instructions for:

forming an N by M matrix A of numerical values of supplier metrics for customer interest categories of a software product requirement, where N is a number of supplier metrics and M is a number of customer interest categories;

multiplying the matrix A by an M by N matrix of numerical weights W, to form the M by M matrix P=WA, to provide partial scores; and

determining an overall score for the software product requirement from diagonal elements of the matrix P.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the customer interest categories are selected from the set consisting of capability, usability, performance, reliability, interoperability, maintainability, documentation, and serviceability.

Claim 15 (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the supplier metrics are selected from the set consisting of market penetration, priority as determined by a customer, revenue potential, and state of technology advancement.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the step of determining includes a step of averaging non-zero diagonal elements of P.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A method for determining numerical scores suitable for use in ranking software product requirements, comprising the steps of:

evaluating supplier metrics for customer interest categories to provide numerical values for a software product requirement;

computing partial scores for the customer interest categories by weighting and summing the numerical values; and

determining, by a processor, an overall score for the software product requirement from the partial scores by a processor.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the customer interest categories are selected from the set consisting of capability, usability, performance, reliability, interoperability, maintainability, documentation, and serviceability.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the supplier metrics are selected from the set consisting of market penetration, priority as determined by a customer, revenue potential, and state of technology advancement.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the step of determining includes a step of averaging non-zero partial scores.

Claim 21 (currently amended) A method for determining numerical scores suitable for use in ranking software product requirements, comprising the steps of:

forming an N by M matrix A of numerical values of supplier metrics for customer interest categories of a software product requirement, where N is a number of supplier metrics and M is a number of customer interest categories;

multiplying the matrix A by an M by N matrix of numerical weights W, to form the M by M matrix P=WA, to provide partial scores; and

determining, by a processor, an overall score for the software product requirement from diagonal elements of the matrix P by a processor.

Claim 22 (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the customer interest categories are selected from the set consisting of capability, usability, performance, reliability, interoperability, maintainability, documentation, and serviceability.

Claim 23 (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the supplier metrics are selected from the set consisting of market penetration, priority as determined by a customer, revenue potential, and state of technology advancement.

Claim 24 (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of determining includes a step of averaging non-zero diagonal elements of P.